Claims

1.  A method for producing a colour recommendation for a structure or part of a structure to be painted which comprises the steps of:

    a)  selecting, at a user terminal and from a first database containing at least one image of structural archetypes stored in electronic format on storage means, an archetype image that closely matches the structure to be painted, the first database being located at a server remote from the said user terminal;

    b)  selecting, at the said user terminal, a colour or colours from a second database containing at least one colour stored in electronic format on storage means the second database likewise being located at the remote server;

    c)  applying the colour or colours at the remote server to the image to produce a colour scheme;

    d)  displaying, on a display unit of the user terminal, the structure or part of a structure with the colour applied; and

    e)  providing information from which paint corresponding to the colour or colours in the colour scheme can be identified.

2.  A method according to claim 1, where the user terminal is connectable to the remote server via a communication link.

3.  A method according to claim 2, where said communication link is a wide area network.

4. A method according to claim 2, where said communication link is a local area network.

5. A method according to claim 2, where said communication link is the internet.

6. A method for producing a colour recommendation for a structure or part of a structure to be painted comprising the steps of:

    a) selecting from a first database containing at least one image of structural archetypes stored in electronic format on optical storage means, an archetype image that closely matches the structure to be painted;

    b) selecting a colour or colours from a second database containing at least one colour stored in electronic format on an optical storage means and applying, at a user terminal, the colour or colours, obtained from the optical storage means, to the image to produce a colour scheme;

    c) displaying the structure or part of a structure with the colour applied; and

    d) providing information from which paint corresponding to the colour or colours in the colour scheme can be identified.

7. A method according to any preceding claim, where the structural archetypes are images of a building .

8. A method according to any preceding claim, where the image is of the interior of a building.

9. A method claimed in any of claim 7 or 8, where the building is a house.

10. A method according to any preceding claim, where separate areas of the archetypes can be coloured separately one from another.

11. A method according to Claim 10, where the archetype is an interior of a building and the separate areas are walls, doors, coving, ceiling, dado rails, skirting boards, window frames, sills and fireplaces.

12. A method according to any of the preceding claims, where the archetype is an interior of a building and also contains furniture or furnishings.

13. A method according to Claim 12 where colour can be applied separately to the furniture or furnishings.

14. A method according to any preceding claims, where images are of photographic quality.

15. A method according to Claim 1 where the colours are assembled in groups where the colours are complementing or contrasting with one another.

16. A method according to any preceding claim, where the user can enter from his point of access, the image to be coloured in electronic form.

17. A system for producing a colour recommendation for a structure or part of a structure to be painted that comprises:

> a first database located at a server remote from a user terminal containing at least one image of structural archetypes stored in electronic format on storage means;

> a second database located at the server remote from the user terminal containing at least one colour stored in electronic format on storage means;

> applying means located within the server to apply at least one colour to said image to produce a colour scheme; and

> display means located at the user to display the structure or part of the structure with the colour applied; and said display means being arranged in use to provide information from which paint corresponding to the colour or colours in the colour scheme can be identified.

18. A system for producing a colour recommendation for a structure or part of a structure to be painted that comprises:

> a first database containing at least one image of a structural archetype stored in electronic format on optical storage means;

> a second database containing at least one colour stored in electronic format on optical storage means;

applying means located at a user terminal for applying the at least one colour, obtained from said optical storage means, to the image to produce a colour scheme; and

display means for displaying the structure or part of the structure with the colour applied;

the display means being arranged in use further to provide information from which paint corresponding to the colour or colours in the colour scheme can be identified.